

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is the only claim in this application.

With regard to the objection to the specification because it fails to cross-reference the parent application i.e. the International Application, such cross-reference is improper as pointed out by MPEP § 1893.03(d), page 1800-200 lower left column.

The above amendment directs claim 1 to preferred the catalysts i.e. the salt or the hydrate salt of the transition metal compounds disclosed on page 5, lines 11-13 as well as Table 1 of the present specification. The significance of this amendment is discussed below.

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by *Organic Letters* (2001), 3(1), p. 25-28.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While the Official Action states that the reference teaches the synthesis of a β -aminoketone from an α , β -unsaturated and a carbamate using a Pt salt catalyst, please note that the reference does not teach a Pt salt catalyst but rather a Pd salt catalyst.

While the Official Action suggests that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the subject matter of claim 2 is anticipated by *Organic Letters* (2001), 3(1), p. 25-28.

To conclude, claim 1 as presently amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference.

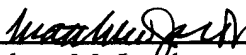
With regard to the objection to the specification because it fails to cross-reference the parent application i.e. the International Application, such cross-reference is improper as pointed out by MPEP § 1893.03(d), page 1800-200 lower left column.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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